

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested. Claims 1-4, 23, 26 and 28 have been amended in response to a telephonic interview held with the Examiner in which the Examiner asked for a clarification in the recited claim language. This clarifying amendment is not believed to have narrowed the claim language.

The oath or declaration is considered to be defective for not being executed by the inventors. In response, Applicant respectfully submits that an executed declaration was submitted in response to a Notice to File Missing Parts of Application on August 2, 2004.

Claims 2-4, 6-7, 18, and 23 stand rejected to under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. In response, Applicant has amended claims 2-4 and 23 to overcome the claim objections. With respect to claim 6, the Examiner appears to be uncertain with respect to the meaning of the term “pebbled” as in claim 6. Applicant respectfully submits that the term “pebbled” should be understood to have its common meaning, such as, for example, “an irregular, rough, grainy surface” or “having a pebble surface or grain”. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claims 2-4, 6-7, 18, and 23 be withdrawn.

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7, 12-17 and 19-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,868,145 to Brooke (“Brooke”). Claims 1-12 and 17-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,527,022 to Gibson (“Gibson”). Claims 13-16 and 24-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gibson in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,386,978 to Ladwig (“Ladwig”).

Independent claims 1, 26 and 28 recite a sloping trough slide defined in a cutting surface wherein the slide has a concave, continuous arch shape that decreases in depth as the slide extends in from the edge. Applicant respectfully submits and the Examiner agreed in the telephonic interview, that the claimed feature is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record.

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In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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